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George Bolton discusses the state of Australian history and Linda Hall looks at the roots of racist language...

BOOKS Richard Geary reviews the latest volume of the letters of Marx and Engels...

PSYCHOLOGY BOOKS Care for the mentally ill, human learning, child development, and visual processing are among the subjects of new books in psychology...

NOTICEBOARD

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Letters on recruiting 'new blood' into universities and on student grants and Union View from Jean Bosock and Derek Betts of Naffie...

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S. J. Martin on genetic biochemistry; Nevil Johnson on Samuel Beer; The Quality Game: the regional dimension; Gillian Beer on Darwin...

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Waiting for the crisis

Are the worst of the cuts over for the universities or are they yet to come? It is a measure of the chaos and confusion into which the funding of universities has fallen since the collapse of the quinquennial system...

One view is that once again the universities will muddle through. Grumbling acquiescence in the priorities established by the University Grants Committee...

The contrary view is that the universities are on the edge of the abyss. It is argued that a substantial minority of universities can postpone but cannot deflect a financial crisis...

On the contrary, it represents just what Sir Keith and his colleagues profess to despise: the typical politician's compromise...

A sigh of relief

This week's final distribution of teacher training cuts will have come as something of a relief to those who feared the worst when Sir Keith Joseph signalled his intention to swing his axe primarily in the direction of public sector institutions...

Perhaps the most gratifying aspect of the statement was the attention apparently paid to the National Advisory Body's recommendation that it was important for the credibility of the NAB...

the face of it universities have done rather well (in the highly relative terms typical of the public sector in Mrs Thatcher's Britain). They have won their first battle and been compensated for unanticipated rate increases...

Yet it would be wrong to push this line of argument too far. The universities have been hurt, and badly by the cuts in the income imposed by the Government...

Yet a dim picture is beginning to emerge: it is of a university system which in one sense is doing all that Government is asking in terms of conceived if not yet born...

its brand new facilities and high reputation in the shortage subject of craft, design and technology is less valuable to the nation than some of the institutions which have survived...

Laurie Taylor



Your witness, Bursar. Thank you vice chancellor, Mr Mr Groat, you are, I understand, a college porter employed by this university?

Yes Sir. Well, at approximately 19.06 I observed a member of the philosophy department, whom I knew from previous acquaintance as Doctor Blagthorne...

He took two. (GENERAL CONSTERNATION. CHIEF OF "SHAME" AND "WHAT'S THE TIME?")

Thank you, Groat, that you caught Dr Blagthorne in the actual act of multiple copying. Yes sir.

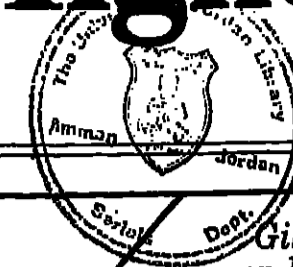
Thank you, Groat, that you stand down. Vice chancellor, the prosecution rests. Thank you, Bursar. Well Blagthorne, the case against you looks very black indeed. How do you plead?

GUILTY, Sir - but on the grounds of diminished responsibility. And these grounds I see are contained in the already circulated psychiatrist's report in which Dr Otto Wernitz declares that you have an excessive photocopying may, as a psychodynamic condition known as "Repetition Compulsion".

Very well, then Blagthorne. I propose, in view of the medical evidence, we take a chance in this matter and proceed to pass the minimum sentence. Does that meet with general approval? Good. By next Thursday Blagthorne, on my desk, I must not violate the Copyright Law, 200 lines. And Blagthorne? Proper joined-up writing please.

The Times Higher Education Supplement

November 19, 1982 No 524 Price 45p



Nevil Johnson on Samuel Beer, 15

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Reform or die warns Waldegrave

by John O'Leary

Universities and local authorities have themselves to blame for the squeeze on higher education spending, which will continue even after the economy has recovered...

In a strong speech to staff and students as part of Westfield College, London's centenary celebrations, Mr Waldegrave accused those in higher education of ignoring the need for reform...

So how do we ensure that the wagons do not form up in a circle, but, on the contrary, find renewed vigour for their journeys which may be in quite separate directions?



Buckingham likely to be granted a charter

The first university charter to be granted since the 1600s is likely to be awarded to the independent University College at Buckingham before the end of the year...

Goldsmith's College, London, could apply to become an independent university with an innovative degree programme...

Further cut is ordered in prison education funding

The Home Office has ordered local authorities to make a 3 per cent cut in their prison education provision in 1983...

The Home Office figure comes in the form of a memorandum sent out to local authorities last week...

universities, polytechnics and colleges to consider new roles. Some might move away from traditional full-time course provision, others might seek the equivalent of medieval endowments...

Mr Waldegrave took as his starting point Mrs Shirley Williams' 13 points for reform put to the universities in 1969. Some were much tougher than anything contemplated by the present government...



A striking array of past and present students have rallied round the printmaking department of the Royal College of Art. It has put together a limited edition of 50 prints by 35 well-known British artists...

The figures have been calculated differently from last year, when local authorities were told to add local authority salaries to their original estimates...

Student hours in prisons had already fallen even before 1982. 7.3 per cent in two years. In 1981/2 education in prisons fell as a proportion of total spending to 1.9 per cent...

Double threat to tenure

by David Jobbins

Vice chancellors from about half of Britain's universities are to discuss ways of weakening tenure at what union leaders have described as a "somewhat secretive" talks later this month...

These two challenges to tenure led to a warning from the Association of University Teachers that proposals floated by the vice chancellors' committee which have the effect of extending the probationary period to eight years are in breach of a legally-binding national agreement...

Although the Department of Education and Science accepts that the weakening of tenure will make little difference to the present run-down, it is determined that academic contracts should be made more flexible so that future changes are easier to achieve...

The agreement on the principle of a three-year probation was reached in 1971 when under the Industrial Relations Act deals reached through collective bargaining were legally enforceable...

The question the prison officers inevitably ask is 'What good is an Open University BA degree to a man who is serving life for killing two or three people and who will go out into the world and be a social worker?'

The union is also concerned at proposals for the injection of "new blood" into the universities and is seeking talks with the Department of Education and Science...

Dispute may disrupt NUS

by David Jobbins

The Labour leadership of the National Union of Students is in an embarrassing dispute with its 60 staff and facing the prospect of severe disruption of its conference in two weeks' time.

Backed from headquarters for this week's week of action on grants was likely to be impaired and the next edition of *National Student* is unlikely to be published on schedule.

The strike by staff in Endsleigh Street, London, who belong to the white collar section of the transport workers' union, was the culmination of months of growing discontent with the efforts of the NUS executive to move quickly towards greater efficiency and professionalism in the service to affiliated unions.

Low college sale price puzzles higher bidders

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish Correspondent

The former Hamilton College of Education has been sold for more than £1m less than it cost to build 14 years ago. But the two unsuccessful bidders maintain their offers were higher than those accepted by the Scottish Office.

More poly staff opt to retire early

by David Jobbins

A massive increase in the numbers of polytechnic staff taking early retirement is revealed in figures reported to the Teachers' Superannuation Management Advisory Committee in 1981/82.

until the age of 65, a further lump sum of £1,800 at 65, and an addition to his pension of £600 a year. The long-term compensation alone would be worth nearly £100,000 although this would be eroded by inflation.

UCCA applicants rise

by Sandra Hempel

Applications for university places through the Universities Central Council on Admissions are, to date up by 4.4 per cent compared with last year.

Universities Council for the Education of Teachers. The council says that 70.2 per cent of those qualifying last summer were in teaching jobs by mid October compared with 68.6 per cent last year.



Students at Napier College in Edinburgh joined this week's Beaujolais nouveau races. A women's and men's team competed to bring 20 cases of wine from London to Edinburgh. All profits from the wine went to charity, and both teams were sponsored.

Polytechnic enrolments up slightly

Student enrolments at polytechnics have improved this year but not as much as early forecasts suggested. The Committee of Directors of Polytechnics is half way through analyzing early figures from polytechnics but it has found, for home students, a growth of roughly 5 per cent in first year enrolments for degree courses, which account for 70 per cent of their total work.

MBA puts denial to test

The British Medical Association has set up a high-level committee to assess the effects of University Grants Committee cuts on medical schools, following the government's denial that the cuts have had more than a marginal effect on clinical services.

gures to make its case. The Association says its conference on the effects of the cuts last June found "substantial and serious effects on patient care, from cuts in medical school funding."

Leeds tells archaeology candidates 'course closed'

While a Leeds University working party is still deliberating the future of the archaeology department, the university's senate has stopped next year's intake of students.

said, however, that the department had received over 100 applications. "We have had to tell them that the course for which they applied in all good faith is no longer on offer," he said.

New funds set up to combat cuts

Two universities have this week set up funds to help repair damage done by cuts in income.

mostly in the latter case, because of normal and early retirement. Some have by this means unintentionally exceeded their savings targets. Now the surplus funds are to be used to redress the imbalance and for new incentives and a cushion against new government cuts.

Flowers losing their power in adult education classes

by Karen Gold

The flower-arranging and car maintenance image of adult education classes is fast becoming inaccurate, as provision in these areas shows a sharp decline in favour of qualification-based courses.

1977, though with a small fall in 1981/82, but the number of hours showing reductions either in each class or in term lengths - has fallen from 174,127 to 159,304.

Women engineers

Forty women engineering students have been awarded £500 a year bursaries during their first degree courses by the Engineering Industry Training Board.

The bursaries are part of the board's effort to attract women into engineering and more than 220 applied for the awards.

Grant increases

The University Grants Committee has given Glasgow and Strathclyde universities an extra recurrent grant of £75,000 for biotechnology.

The money will be used to create six academic posts, three in each university.

News in brief

LSE McKenzie memorial

An appeal fund has been launched to finance a Robert McKenzie fellowship in communications at the London School of Economics. The fellowship is to commemorate Professor McKenzie, who taught at the LSE from 1949 until he died in October 1981.

'Help jobless'

Education for unemployed adults should receive public encouragement from the Government, says the Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education's report on the subject published this week.

Call for Think Tank report

The all-party Commons Select Committee on Education has asked Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for a copy of the controversial Think Tank document which discussed the feasibility of privatizing all higher and further education.

Road rescue at prices that look good, however you break them down.



Mr William Waldegrave (left), minister for further and higher education, is shown a computer bought for Queen Mary College, London, by the Department of Education and Science. Thirty-one universities have so far received computers and another 19 are to be allocated machines. They were bought at a discount for £15,900 instead of £22,150 from International Computers and this discount offer is now to be extended to polytechnics and higher education colleges. With Mr Waldegrave is Mr Jeremy Brandon, director of the QMC computer centre.

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MSC scheme 'pushed through'

Local authority representatives were meeting Sir Keith Joseph and the Manpower Services Commission's chairman, David Young, this week to discuss the Government's controversial new 14-18 technical education scheme only days after its announcement. The speed with which the meeting was arranged has been seen as a Government attempt to counter growing hostility to the scheme and the way in which it was announced by the Prime Minister without any consultation with local authorities, unions or even Her Majesty's Inspectorate. Some local authorities are understood to be pressing for a boycott, arguing that the scheme - to introduce 10 pilot "technical education" projects in England and Wales for 14 to 18-year-olds next year - contravenes existing legislation and should only be introduced on parliamentary authority. They argue that behind the invitation from Sir Keith and employment minister Norman Taitbit for local authorities to make proposals for running these schemes in conjunction with the MSC, are plans for a form of 14+ selection, ultimately with the creation of separate "training" and "education" institutions and with local authority educational responsibilities being cut back to the 3-13. They point to the Prime Minister's announcement of "new institutional arrangements for technical and vocational education," as evidence. The pilot projects as outlined by the Government would run initially for five years, with the first year's MSC funding set at £7m. The MSC would cater for up to 1,000 14 to 18-year-olds each, none of whom would

Change in law could help science parks

Science correspondent by Jon Turney. Changes in planning regulations and new sources of funding to help university science parks could soon be on the way. Speakers at the Town and Country Planning Association's conference on science parks last week identified these as the two key problems hampering science park development, and offered solutions to both. Fred Roche, former chief executive of Milton Keynes, said that present planning legislation discouraged mixed use development, and science parks needed a new class of planning permission. And David Hall, director of the TCPA, said the association would be putting proposals on this to the Government. Plans for new funds are further advanced than planning changes. John Parry, managing director of Commercial Union Properties, disclosed that a special investment fund to cater for new high technology ventures and properties will be launched soon. The sponsors of the new fund will be the Multinational Management Group, an American ven-

ture capital company, and stockbroker Coulter-Goodison. The fund will channel money from the major institutions into the new market created by science parks. Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, said the Department of Industry was looking at ways of promoting links between universities and small businesses, and that more work needed to be done in government consultation on science parks. "I am very conscious that not enough is being done to take advantage of the expertise in our universities," he said. He commended the idea of "incubator units" for new ventures, an idea which has been taken up at several developments by English Industrial Estates. The latest such initiative was announced this week on a site next to Bradford University, EIE, a statutory body, is investing £1.3m in a speculative development of five "high-tech" blocks to cater for science-based companies. Similar EIE developments are already under way in Leeds, and others will follow in Hull, Durban, Lancaster, Newcastle and Plymouth.

New course for Salford

Salford University has launched a sandwich degree course in manufacturing engineering. It lasts four years and the third year will be spent working in industry. The university has got nine companies to agree to sponsor students. The first year of the course, which is run by the department of aeronautical and mechanical engineering, is common with the first year of the BSc honours in mechanical engineering and consists of mathematics and engineering science. Students can transfer from one to the other course during that year. Later studies are based on manufacturing technology, manufacturing engineering, manufacturing systems engineering and industrial design. The University is now anxious to convince high ability sixth formers wanting to take an engineering degree to apply for the new course. The first students will take their places in October 1983.

Applicants judged on form

Quirks of form-filling can win or lose potential jobs for students, research is revealing. The mere filling of blank spaces can be of more significance than what is written. If the comments are written in big bold hand, so much the better. But neat handwriting and accurate spelling are not so highly regarded as careers advisers contumaciously suggest. These are the preliminary results of research being undertaken by Professor Peter Herriott of Birkbeck College, London University. They were revealed to an audience of industrial recruitment managers and university careers advisers at a meeting held in London by Education for Industrial Society. The professor said the most common favourable prejudices of acceptance was work experience or some other project with direct relevance to the employer concerned. Next came the proportion of spaces filled, followed by the number of words used. Good O and A level grades were significant, as was competence in the use of language and evidence of a wider interest in the world under the hobbies heading. The desire for responsibility helped as did evidence of the applicants' aims to help the company rather than purely selfish ends. Factors likely to inspire doubt in selectors' minds were the sex of the applicant, where that was unusual in a particular career, an absorption in solitary interests or membership of a radical organization. Current employment difficulties, said Professor Herriott, meant that employers were raising entry standards and looking more closely at their stereotypes of what constituted a "good company man." Employers were also likely to pay more attention to the personal values of applicants in comparison with those of the company.



A group of Indonesian administrators on a training course at St Andrews University gave staff a taste of Indonesian cuisine last week. The training course, under the auspices of the British Council and financed by a World Bank loan, is aimed at improving Indonesia's higher education system. On the left of the picture is the course's coorganizer, St Andrews' secretary and registrar, Dr Maria Lowe.

O grade maths may soon be mandatory

Pressure is being put on the Scottish Office to introduce a four-year primary teaching degree and to make an O grade pass in mathematics mandatory for all entrants to teacher training. This has been precipitated by teacher training requirements to be introduced in England and Wales in 1984 which will bar many teachers trained in Scotland from schools south of the border. Teachers will need a degree or equivalent qualification and passes in O level English and Maths. This will exclude all Scottish primary diplomates and many graduates who do not hold a maths O grade. A pass in English is already compulsory for entry to Scottish colleges and universities. There has been widespread backing in Scotland for several years from the General Teaching Council, education colleges and teaching unions for an all-graduate teaching profession but successive Scottish secretaries have dragged their heels over implementing this. Mr John Pollock, general secretary of the Education Institute of Scotland, has written urging the Scottish Secretary to replace the primary diploma with a degree, and pointing out that it is already too late to have an all-graduate profession by the time the English changes in 1984ulation take effect. "For decades, if not centuries, it has been accepted that the quality of academic and professional training required of entrants to the teaching profession in Scotland has been second to none in the United Kingdom," says Mr Pollock's letter. "Now, for the first time, substantial numbers of Scottish trained teachers will be labelled unacceptable elsewhere. Mr Pollock adds that the union's national executive recommends a national O grade should become compulsory. The case for a pass in maths is particularly strong as far as teachers of general subjects in primary schools are concerned, he says.

SERC to fund biotechnology exchange

British biotechnologists should soon be visiting Japan on Science and Engineering Research Council Fellowship grants, following the recommendations of a group of academics who went to the Far East earlier this year. The group, all biotechnologists themselves, visited Japan under the auspices of SERC, the Royal Society and the British Council, and their report says synopses should be held to bring British and Japanese researchers together every two years, and there should be exchanges between academic institutions in the two countries at postdoctoral level and beyond. The council now says up to 20 exchange places may be set up next year, and SERC's biotechnology directorate, whose director, Dr Geoffrey Potter, was among the visitors, will fund British research to match Japanese work on biosensors. The party's general impression, from their report, was that when Japanese universities and institutes are good they are very good. But they also saw some laboratories where cleanliness and safety were not up to British standards, and some with too little money to run expensive equipment. This uneven spread of excellence results from the Japanese policy of putting substantial resources in the hands of a few outstanding researchers, according to one member of the visiting group. The visitors were also impressed by the speed of the Japanese advance in molecular genetics and DNA manipulation. Here, they matched western techniques in four years.

Cambridge admits fewer students this year

The number of entrants to Cambridge University has dropped to 2,792 this year, compared with 2,928 last year. This is in response to the University Grants Committee's request for a cut in the number of home students, the university says. However, the number of women entering Cambridge shows a small rise, from 907 to 928, or 2.6 per cent. Total applications were 7,021, of which 3,774 (48.9 per cent) came from pupils in maintained schools and 2,910 (37 per cent) from those in independent schools. Of those accepted, however, 34 per cent were from maintained schools compared with 48 per cent from independent schools. The university says 52 per cent of conditional offers were made to applicants from the maintained sector, including colleges of further education, and 43 per cent from independent schools. The number of students offered places at Cambridge conditional on their A level results was 160 per cent, while 14.1 had offers on the strength of A level passes they already had. This means 30.7 per cent were offered places without taking the Cambridge colleges' examination. Fifty-two per cent of the conditional offers were made to applicants from the maintained sector, including FE colleges, 43 per cent went to applicants from independent schools, and 3 per cent to overseas candidates. The rise in the number of places awarded by some (O level) offers has meant more post-A level candidates going to Cambridge. They now represent 44 per cent of all entrants.

AUT secretary 'to be confirmed'

The appointment of the new general secretary of the university lecturers' union seems increasingly likely to go through unchallenged. An initial flurry of anger and disappointment that an outsider, Ms Diana Warwick, had been offered the job in preference to two strong internal candidates, has largely died down. It is now expected that the decision of the executive of the Association of University Teachers to appoint Ms Warwick, currently working with the Civil and Public Services Association to the job when Mr Laurie Sapper retires next April, will be ratified at the union's council meeting in Bradford next month. Early suggestions that attempts to reopen the selection procedure might be made are now being discounted, and no motions critical of the decision have been submitted by local branches. There is acute embarrassment among some members of the executive that the names of candidates were leaked to newspapers in breach of an undertaking to applicants that the procedure would be confidential.

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MILESTONES

Gillian Beer chooses *The Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin

Ten years ago I was projecting a study of Victorian fantasy. Our third child was still a baby and I was living a closely physical life, forced to know the resources of his body and mine: growing, breast-feeding, the patters of limbs and their changing powers. Third time round, and back at the beginning, I needed to understand something of the process that was using me, and using me up: the process of generation and descent for which we invoke the metaphor of the life cycle, applying it now, since Darwin, also to the development of species. It would be neat, but not true, to say the experience of child bearing led me to read *Of the Origin of Species* by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life. Rather the response was under way before the need could be formulated. I suppose I first came to a close study of it by way of Kingsley's *Water Babies*, that fantasy of foetal life which is also an attempt to escape from the rigours of Malthusian doctrine.

Here we go again!

When Peter Davison was made redundant as a young man it led him into higher education and a new career in university teaching. Now, 33 years later, he describes how it feels to face redundancy again.

My life in the groves of academe began as a result of my being made redundant in 1949. The prospect of again becoming redundant has led me to ponder the lessons of that experience and especially whether I should again attempt to make a complete change in my working life. In 1949 I was working for MGM and on returning from our honeymoon found that, with 600 others, I had been made redundant. There was no redundancy pay in those days of course. The trade union to which I belonged was then called the Association of Cine-Technicians - I still have my membership card, number 5323 - and although Alan Sapper, brother to the current Association of University Teachers secretary, was not then associated with the ACT, I take a certain sardonic satisfaction in having been made redundant as a fully paid-up member of the two Sapper unions.

by Nevil Johnson

Britain Against Itself: the political contradictions of collectivism by Samuel H. Beer. Faber, 29.50 ISBN 0 571 11918 2

The argument of this contribution by a distinguished American political scientist to the analysis of political culture in Britain can be quickly summarized. From 1945 until about 1960 Britain had a political system which was both admirable and admired. Two competing parties gave the electorate a choice of leaders and policies within an over-arching consensus on the virtues of the managed economy and the welfare state. The consensus imposed moderation on the parties and reinforced in the people a trust in their leaders founded on longstanding habits of deference. Class divisions were a powerful influence on the party affiliations of the electorate, yet this enhanced stability and moderation rather than stimulated unresolvable divisions. The outcome of these conditions was effective public choice in a stable democracy.

The paralysis of public choice?

Beer's terms - certainly has some plausibility and one can say the same of some of the factors adduced to explain this. Beer does, however, attach particular importance to one factor ahead of all others in bringing about the immobilism which he now sees as characteristic of the collectivist polity. This is the effect of competition and unrestrained parties. They appealed successfully to a consensus which came to legitimize nothing more than an increasing range of claims in society detached from communitarian responsibilities. By encouraging the growth and egoism of interest groups, the parties lost the power to restrain them. As a result, strong party government offering a clear choice of policies dissolved into impotent government, unable in reality to pursue the policies offered in the face of resistance from deeply-entrenched interests in society.



David Steele and Shirley Williams, Dean's Yard, Westminster in June 1981: neo-radicals who may harness the new populism?

There are some other features of the analysis which are not entirely plausible. It hardly seems to me that the two major parties have in the past fifteen years or so been quite so weak and ineffective in office as he argues. Much that is said of their twists and turns in economic affairs is justified. But by no means all the activity of governments has been directed to "managing the economy". Both the major parties may have done many foolish things, made great mistakes, and so on. But with the many fields they have acted with confidence and ability to carry out policies and to take decisions traditionally associated with the older, more flattering view of British government.

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, possibly a page number or a small advertisement.

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A comparative survey of planned and market economies... by O. Fulton, A. Gordon and G. Williams

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BOOKS

POLITICS

Sharing a political attitude

The Rebirth of Britain edited by Wayland Kenet

The problem for Social Democrats is whether they have a sufficiently distinctive approach to our national problems

Policy Styles in Western Europe

Edited by Jeremy Richardson, University of Strathclyde

America's King John

The Life and Times of Joe McCarthy: a biography

The contributions to The Rebirth of Britain are a mixed bag, but none of worse for that

Workforce reductions in undertakings

Higher education and manpower planning

distinct identity. In his concluding essay David Owen claims that the social democrat tradition does stand apart

No doubt, there were compelling personal, psychological and tactical reasons why the Gang of Four preferred to start a new party

The blurring and bullying tactics which were McCarthy's stock-in-trade were increasingly compounded during the 1950s

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fusion about constitutional entrenchment and the effect of European Community law

Contemplation of the episodes and dramatic persons of the past twenty-five years makes one feel that perhaps the revived interest in constitutional matters could be stimulated

vides a psychopolitical analysis of young Germans, based on the autobiography of one German terrorist

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Coercion and Diplomacy in the Vietnam Conflict, 1964-1968

Vietnamese Communism 1925-1945

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BOOKS

POLITICS

Rules and practices

The Constitution in Flux by Philip Norton

Philip Norton has written a readable and compact guide to current constitutional debate

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RECENT AND FORTHCOMING TITLES FROM CCJ

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PRESCRIPTIONS FOR DEATH

THE DRUGGING OF THE THIRD WORLD

Milton Silverman, Philip R Lee, Mia Lydecker

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